

The Times Dispatch

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1913.

A MINIMUM WAGE FOR TEACHERS.
The actual living expenses of the average white country public school teacher in this State holding a first-grade certificate exceed her salary by \$5. Such is the estimate made by J. H. Balford, secretary of the Co-operative Education Association of Virginia. In the current issue of the *Virginia Journal of Education*, the year's salary of such a teacher he puts as less than \$770, and his calculation of her expenses is:

Teaching and board.....\$150
Dress, including laundry.....180
Summer normal travelling expenses.....50
Papers, magazines and books.....10
Church dues.....20
Incidentals.....20
Total living expenses.....\$350
Salary.....270
Deficit for year.....\$80

"This deficit is paid by the young lady's father or brothers—the same persons who defrayed her expenses while she was a student at high or boarding school. If your teacher has an attack of appendicitis or typhoid the deficit is much larger," says Mr. Balford, who calls upon the white country school teachers of Virginia to inform him what it costs them to live, what it cost them or their parents or relatives to educate them, whether a teacher getting \$350 or \$450 a month for six months can live comfortably on that amount, and whether or not the salary must be supplemented by aid from parents or relatives and just what the actual living expenses of individual teachers are. Upon the data so secured will be based a campaign for the shaping of public sentiment in favor of higher salaries. For present purposes the discussion is limited to holders of first-grade certificates so that some standard of comparison may be established.

The average monthly salary of white teachers in Virginia for the year 1910-11 was \$450. Salaries of school principals and high school teachers are included in the calculation. If they were not, what would the average salary be? There is no escape from the conclusion that it would be far less than \$450. Is that a just and reasonable compensation for a well-prepared, efficient teacher?

The practice of other States convinces us that it is not. In teaching salaried Virginia ranks forty-second among the States. But six other States pay lower compensation to public school teachers than the Old Dominion. Maryland pays salaries twice as high as ours. In the South, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana and Florida pay higher salaries than we do.

An illuminating and interesting compilation by Mr. Balford shows that although the average monthly salary for country school teachers is \$450, seventy counties fail to attain that average; seven counties pay first-grade teachers only \$30 a month; thirty-five only \$35, and thirty-five only \$40. All right-thinking people must thoughtfully consider Mr. Balford's query: "How shall we ever improve teachers unless we hold out greater financial inducements?" Efficient cigar makers earn \$12 a week, as do experienced sales girls. Good stenographers make \$8 a month the year round, and trained nurses earn \$15 per week and board.

When we consider the cold facts, how can we dissent from the proposed remedial action? Many States have minimum salary laws. Virginia should have one fixing the salary of first-grade teachers at not less than \$55 a month for seven months, and continuing a provision that counties having the maximum school tax and unable to pay this salary should receive State aid.

How long will Virginia continue a policy which denies to the country public school teacher even a mere living in return for her labor?

Our thought it would be wise to take a cruise from that ornate Veracruz.

The principal historic question seems to be "How much ultimatum?"

Atlanta will now please sit down in peace and let somebody run the show.

Are the Richmond authorities trying to write two best sellers now?

Auditor Moore says county and city officers do not receive excellent fees. Marks they are not large, but after all.

Old General Denby seems to be leading the Murphy-McCall campaign in New York.

Arent those 12,000 glad they can call themselves "Richmonders?"

When Rockingham looks into the mystic mirror Halloween night for the fate of her future representative in the House of Delegates, it's doubtful we doughnut she see the Tell 33 camore of Kecelitown.

"Never eat uncooked food," advises Professor McMillan. Well, eat any food we can, Professor, and be all-fired glad to get it in these days of the altitude expense of existence.

STOP SALE OF DISEASED MEAT.
The people of Virginia often eat diseased or unwholesome meats to such an extent that the condition constitutes a "standing imminent menace to the public health."

So says Dairy and Food Commissioner William D. Saunders in his quarterly report just published. The season of greatest activity in slaughtering cattle for meat food purposes approaches, and he warns the owners of insanitary slaughter-houses, who have failed to obey State requirements governing them, that they will not be permitted to go on operating in insanitary surroundings. Certain owners have manifested much indifference as to their duty to co-operate with the State authorities in this direction.

It is recommended that the State establish ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections of all cattle, sheep, goats and swine whose carcasses may be intended for human consumption. So long as such inspection is not had, diseased and unwholesome meat will be foisted upon the consumer. The heat to which bad meat is subjected in preparing it for the table is the only thing that has prevented the transmission of many diseases, such as tuberculosis and trichinosis. Commissioner Saunders declares:

"State or municipally controlled slaughter-houses of abattoirs or such establishments as are under the supervision of the Federal authorities should be erected either by the State or municipality or by private enterprise in every community. This State is large enough to support a business of this kind, and the unexpected imports of meat food products should be permitted to be sold in the State. To-day it is an easy thing for a man owning a sick or injured animal or a herd of hogs, in which cholera has broken out, to get his stock into the hands of an unscrupulous butcher, who will kill and sell them for food purposes after eliminating the visible diseased portions."

If we insist upon pure milk and pure water, why should we not insist upon pure meat? If we order the inspection of water and milk, why not likewise of meat? Such legislation as will adequately remedy this situation is vital and should be secured by popular demand at the next session of the General Assembly.

GREAT BRITAIN AND MEXICO AGAIN.

A Marconi wireless special from London quotes the London Times as relating its "positive affirmations" that no friction has arisen between the British and the American governments over the Mexican situation, and as adding: "A little consideration ought to convince sensible observers that sensational announcements to the effect that the relations of the governments are unfriendly, or even strained, are as unfounded as mischievous." Obviously, and because there was no reason why Anglo-American relations should be strained as the result of Great Britain's attitude, there was no serious issue.

The Times is further quoted as explaining that Great Britain has no suit of political interests in Mexico other than those she has in any other foreign State in which her commercial and financial interests are large, and that it is no concern of hers by what men or what party the government is carried on, but it does concern her for the sake of British trade and capital invested in Mexico that the government should be able and willing to afford some measure of order and maintain a regular and stable administration. That, the Times emphasizes, is the limit of British interest in the internal affairs of the republic.

Hearns, the Times also explains, was "acknowledged" as "acting President" not because of any prediction entertained for him, nor did the acknowledgment imply approbation of his methods, but because he appeared to be the de facto President, and it was thought that recognition would tend to the restoration of orderly conditions. None the less, the Times credits President Wilson with sincerity in taking the opposite view, and frankly admits that "he is supported in that view by the great body of popular opinion in the United States." The outcome is decidedly problematical.

The Democrats undoubtedly will prevail in most of the important fall elections. The Republicans are optimistic, believing that the returns will show a decided drift of the Progressive back into the ancient fold, and the Progressives in some States are already beginning to explain its advance why the balloting will show defections from their host.

A restless cosmopolitan who has traveled the world over came to Richmond last week, looked long upon one of Richmond's fairest daughters and said that he was willing to die.

A. T. Barclay, of Lexington, an old friend and comrade in arms of the late Dr. G. R. Strickler, gives in the Presbyterian of the South an example of the methods adopted by Dr. Strickler for the improvement of his mind and the continuation of his interrupted education when he was a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island and when Mr. Barclay was confined at Fort Delaware. They corresponded during that time, and after a few letters had passed between them, Dr. Strickler proposed that the correspondence be continued in code. "I thought he had me in a trap," says Mr. Barclay, "but I suggested that our commandant at Fort Delaware was not acquainted with the language, and that the letters would not be delivered. With this suggestion, he concurred, much to my relief."

We see informed that when Vice-President and Mrs. Marshall attended the South Boston Fair last week they looked for all the world as if they belonged there, and denounces their failure.

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THE TIMES-DISPATCH: RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1913.

THE FALL ELECTIONS.

Next week's election in Virginia is not of national interest, inasmuch as it will be largely a formal ratification of the nominations made in the August Democratic primary. Several contests of internal interest, however, are to be decided, the first and most important being the municipal election in Norfolk, where the Citizens' party is making a powerful effort to prevail over the regular organization. In a number of counties Democratic nominees for the House of Delegates have strong Republican opposition, but the result cannot, of course, break heavily into the usual Democratic majority in that body. Of chief concern to the Virginia Democracy is the getting out of the entire Democratic electorate throughout the State next week so that such potential dangers as lie in a small vote in a Southern State may be foisted upon the consumer. The heat to which bad meat is subjected in preparing it for the table is the only thing that has prevented the transmission of many diseases, such as tuberculosis and trichinosis. Commissioner Saunders declares:

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ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

No Chance Left.

It's great to be a hero for the public to acclaim; It's great for anyone who gets a name to hold on fame; It's great to be the idol of the people, but, somehow, It's pretty hard to butt into the hero game just now.

The airships are invented and they're flying all around; The heroes have been given with gold medals by the pound, There's still a man in biggerin' on glory in that line; No chance to have a medal upon your breast or on mine.

Marconi hit the bull's-eye in the wire-less field fair; The telephone's a chestnut and there ain't no glory there. Perhaps we might be heroes if they'd only have a new war, But then don't seem to be a thing that is worth fightin' for.

The fireless cooker man got his, the telephone man, too; The wireless rat-trap man was praised for makin' something new. Seems like most everything's been done, even to the tango dance; How can we all be heroes when there ain't the slightest chance?

The Diary of a Bonehead.

Mr. Carnegie has got to give me a quiet few moments some day while I pore into his Skibor or Skibosh ear the tale of my heroism, and then he's got to come across with one of those cute medallions such as John Philip Sousa's, and then turn his forehead to his boot-top before a large and enthusiastic audience.

The man who sprang into the surf and grasped the struggling heroine by the hair and swam ashore only to find that he had rescued a handful of store hair while the heroine still struggled in the arms of Neptune, had nothing on me for bravery.

I am a man who took care of the neighbor's boy while the neighbors went to the theatre. They asked me to do it and I accepted before I thought. I am always quick on the trigger when it comes to accomodatin' people.

The machine issue is also very sharply made in Cincinnati, where the incumbrance of the morality, an out-and-out reformer, is struggling for re-election, and in Philadelphia, where the progressive program of a hold-over administration may be defeated by the election of a hostile council.

Maryland has a three-cornered contest for the United States senatorship. Blair Lee, the Democratic candidate, seems certain of election, but the Republicans are banking strongly on their nominee, Thomas Parran. The situation has been complicated by the eleventh-hour entry of former Senator George L. Wellington, the Progressive candidate.

Alabama for the first time will elect a United States Senator by direct vote of the people. There the battle lies between Oscar W. Underwood, House minority leader, and his colleague, Representative Richmond Pearson Hobson. President Wilson's request to Representative Henry D. Clayton to remain in the House of Representatives and as chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary to engineer the administration's anti-trust legislation is regarded as equivalent to a declaration that Mr. Underwood is the President's choice for the senatorship. Mr. Hobson is making a bitter campaign, which is aimed at defeating Mr. Underwood.

At midnight I found myself standing at the window with the baby hanging under my arm. I was blabbering foolishly to myself and waiting for the fond parents.

When they came I handed them their precious child and, without a word, ran home, the fall of my pink bathrobe flapping in the wind.

I have been a brute to these folk ever since and they speak of me as a reincarnation of Nero.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

If Sutler is demoted, he ought to be able to get as much money in Traville as Evelyn Thaw does.

Mrs. Panikhurst says she is eager to meet President Wilson. No doubt the eagerness is all hers.

Men's being importuned from South America is this time will be of interest to our millionaires.

It looks as though New Hampshire will have a January Thaw this winter, all right.

Animal Journal says giraffes will be higher this year in price of course.

A newly-invented gown has only two hooks in the back, and there is no reason why any woman should be liable to the same.

An old maid has invented a crumpled cucumber, but it probably won't taste half as good as the old curly kind.

The nude in art has been barred from the mails. Soon, perhaps, the almost nude in real life will be kept off the streets.

Astrologers claim that the big dipper is disappearing. Well, the drinking cup was abolished some time ago.

Doctors, teachers, farmers and farmers' wives, dentists, pharmacists, plumbers, workers and homemakers.